XIV. Read pages 206-215

On page 206, how do we know that an important conflict (Mrs. Frisby’s conflict) has been resolved?

We know that an important conflict has been resolved, because Mrs. Frisby’s house has been moved and she and the kids will always be safe in their relocated winter house. Now, once Timothy Frisby is well, they can move whenever they please to the summer brook house.

At the meeting with the rats that Mrs. Frisby attends, explain exactly how, and why--the rats intelligently come to the conclusion that they must abandon their home? What evidence do they have? How do they intelligently evaluate the evidence? What predictions do they make?

They decide that they must leave their home, and make it look as if it was an ordinary rat hole. They decide to evacuate everybody, and the food supply to Thorn Valley, and keep a rear guard of rats, and a stolen pile of garbage, in the hole, because they figured out that the exterminators are probably from NIMH, coming to catch the other rats from the original escaped party [Nicodemus, Brutus, Justin, etc.]. They have the evidence that Mrs. Frisby figured out about the exterminators and Jenner’s dead party of rats.

Then, after they decide to abandon their underground lair, what strange plan do they hatch? Why do they come up with this plan?

The plan that they hatch is for the main party of rats to escape to Thorn Valley with the food, while one party of about ten, a rear guard, will stay behind with a stash of stolen garbage, to look like an unintelligent, uncivilized rat hole. They hatch this plan, so that they can move from the hole to Thorn Valley, and because now they’ll be safe from NIMH, and the exterminators with the gas.

Timothy asks his mother on page 215 why the rats are moving away. She says, “Because they want to.” This is a deep and profound statement. Why do the rats want to move away [“The Plan”]? What does their wanting to do so reveal about whom they are and what their true character is?

They want to move away because of the NIMH exterminator threat, and because they want to make a civilization, by starting it off with a good deed that does the right thing, in morale terms. We see from this that their true character is morally righteous, and intent on making a real civilization. Their true character is now intent on doing the right thing, and starting off a clean slate, into a great civilization that does the right thing.